



476-1736

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND  
TRADEMARK OFFICE**

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In the application of : **Leslie Derek Humphrey**  
Serial No. : **09/257,223**  
Filed : **February 25, 1999**  
For : **Engineering Operations Channel Provision**  
Examiner : **Keith M George**  
Art Unit : **2663**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to "Director of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231," on October 11, 2002.

Name of person signing Jennifer J. Ramirez

Signature 

**RESPONSE**


Honorable Director of  
Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir,

In response to the Office Action mailed July 12, 2002 with reference to the above identified application, it is requested that the application be amended as detailed below.

**In the Claims**

Please amend claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 12 and 13 as follows.

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1. (amended) Apparatus for providing a digital communication service over a line from a line termination equipment disposed at a central station to a subscriber terminal, wherein the line termination equipment and the subscriber terminal incorporate respective first and second management systems arranged to control and supervise said digital communication service via messaging therebetween